

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A system for capturing cost information over a network and for processing the information into a project accounting system, the system comprising:
  - a project accounting system adapted to store time and expense data associated with a project;
  - a user interface provided as a form accessible over a network by a user via a browser, the form comprising fields for data entry by the user, a button for electronic submission of the form, and embedded calls in the form; and
  - a services application program interface (API) adapted to invoke transactions with the project accounting system for processing data contained within the submitted form, wherein the embedded calls in the form comprise calls to the services API that are automatically invoked by the form when the form is submitted by the user, and wherein the calls to the services API invoked by the form instantiate business rules for processing data contained in the submitted form into the project accounting system to invoke business rules for processing data contained within the submitted form.
2. (Original) The system of claim 1 and further comprising:
  - a server adapted to host the forms and to serve the forms to users according to business rules written in managed code.
3. (Original) The system of claim 2 wherein the server is an active server page server and wherein the forms are active server page forms.
4. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the form is a web-based form that contains embedded calls to the services API.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the services API is called using Web services.

7. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the services API is called using remoting.

8-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) A method of capturing time and expense data into an accounting database via forms, the method comprising:

hosting a plurality of forms on a server, each form being accessible to a user over a network via a browser and each form comprising:

data fields for user data entry;

an object for submitting the form when completed by the user; and

embedded server controls for invoking a plurality of business rules upon submission by the user, the business rules being written in managed code; and

providing a requested form of the plurality of forms to the user over the network for display within a window of the browser;

receiving user data in the data fields of the requested form, invoking the object associated with the requested form to submit the requested form upon completion of the requested form, and, in response, utilizing the server controls embedded in the submitted form to invoke the business rules; and

processing the user data contained in the submitted forms-form with a services application program interface (API) according to the invoked business rules; wherein processing comprises:

interacting with the accounting database according to the user data contained in the submitted form and the invoked business rules, wherein the services API associates the user data contained in the submitted ~~forms~~ form to entities in the accounting database; and  
querying the accounting database according to the user data based on the invoked business rules to return a value for display in a form within a window of the browser.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the managed code is written to a common language runtime environment.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10 wherein the step of hosting comprises:

storing a plurality of web forms on a web server wherein at least one of the plurality of web forms is a timesheet form; ~~and~~  
~~providing at least one of the plurality of forms to the user over the network for display within a window of the browser.~~

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~13~~ 10 wherein the step of interacting comprises:

storing data in the accounting database.

15-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) A system for capturing time and expense information over a network and for processing the information into an accounting system, the system comprising:

an accounting system adapted to store time and expense information;

a plurality of web part forms adapted for user input over a network via a browser;

and

a services application program interface (API) for implementing and sequencing business rules written in managed code to process the user input into the accounting system, wherein each of the web part forms contain embedded calls to the services API that are invoked upon submission of the web part form to invoke transactions with the accounting system to process the user input into the accounting system, and wherein the transactions with the accounting system invoked by the embedded calls contained in the web part forms comprise initiating an approval process for the submitted web part form and associating the user data contained in the submitted form with entities in the accounting system ~~business rules define steps for invoking an approval process for the user input within the accounting system;~~ and

a server adapted to host the plurality of web part forms containing embedded calls to the services API and to serve the web part forms containing embedded calls to the services API to users on request.

18-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 2, wherein the form is a web part form that includes embedded server controls.

22. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the business rules invoked by the embedded calls define a workflow process including at least an approval process for approving the data contained within the submitted form.
23. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 17, wherein the web part forms contain embedded server controls for calling the services API.
24. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 17, wherein the calls contained in the web part forms comprise embedded calls to the services API using remoting.
25. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 17, wherein the calls contained in the web part forms comprise embedded calls to the services API using Web services.
26. (New) The system of claim 17, wherein at least one of the plurality of web part forms represents a timesheet form, and wherein the embedded calls contained in the timesheet form are invoked by the timesheet form upon submission of the timesheet form by the user to provide the timesheet form to the approval process.
27. (New) The system of claim 17, wherein the transactions invoked by the embedded calls contained in the timesheet form implement the business rules to provide the timesheet form to an administrator for authorization of the user data contained in the timesheet form and at least one of deletion of the timesheet form, modification of the timesheet form, and return of the timesheet form to the user.
28. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein the embedded calls to the services API invoked by the form define transactions with the project accounting system including querying the project accounting system based on the instantiated business rules to return a value for display in the user interface.

29. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein the form comprises a timesheet form and the embedded calls in the timesheet form instantiate an approval process for approving the timesheet form and storing data from the timesheet form to the project accounting system.